

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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R 231032Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0131

UNCLAS PARIS 11865

DEPT PASS TO NBS, DAVID EDGERLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGN

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF FOREIGN METRIC SYSTEMS ON U.S.

IMPORTS

REF: A-6689 OF 30 MARCH 1976

1. AS REQUESTED IN REF AIRGRAM, EMBOFF SOUGHT INFORMATION RELATED TO SUBJECT FROM THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE METROLOGIE LEGALE (BIML) WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BIML, DR. ERNEST ALLWRIGHT, VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO MEET THE NBS REQUEST.

B. DR. ALLWRIGHT IS WRITING DIRECTLY TO BIML MEMBER COUNTRIES REQUESTING THAT THE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT BE SENT DIRECTLY TO DR. DAVID EDGERLY OF THE NBS. (HE TOOK THIS COURSE OF ACTION BECAUSE OF THE SHEER VOLUME AND COMPLEXITY OF THE MATERIAL IN REPOSITORY AT BIML AND OF THE NECESSITY TO KNOWLEDGEABLY EXTRACT FROM IT.)

C. DR. ALLWRIGHT IS PREPARING A LIST OF ADDRESSES OF COGNIZANT AGENCIES IN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH HE WILL SEND TO DR. EDGERLY FOR HIS USE IN MAKING DIRECT INQUIRIES TO THEM. THE BIML DOES NOT HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

D. IN THE NEAR FUTURE BIML WILL SEND A LETTER DIRECTLY TO DR. EDGERLY OUTLINING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ANALYSIS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES' LAWS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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STANDARDS AND MEASURES. PRACTICES IN SOME COUNTRIES

DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND TO THEIR LAWS, AND THERE ARE OFTEN GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES OTHER THAN STANDARDS BUREAUS INVOLVED IN CONTROL AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS, E.G., FOR RETAIL FOODS WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

2. THE BIML RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE NBS WAS VERY POSITIVE. THEY ASSURED US THAT THEY WOULD DO ALL THAT THEY COULD WITHIN THE CAPABILITIES OF THEIR LIMITED STAFF.
RUSH

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